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NOTES

IMMIGRATION AND INSANITY

In his article on "Immigration and Immigration Restriction," published in the October issue of the *Journal of Political Economy*, Mr. Prescott F. Hall gives a number of data intended to exhibit the tendency of immigration to degrade the quality of the American population. Among these data are certain figures bearing upon the relative proportions of natives and of foreign-born among the insane in New York hospitals and asylums. Mr. Hall states that "the foreign-born furnish 48 per cent of the inmates, although being only 30 per cent of the general population." Inasmuch as insanity, as measured by first admissions to asylums, is absent in childhood and rare in early youth, no comparison between two classes of the population can be of significance unless it gives due consideration to the facts of age distribution in the classes compared. More than 94 per cent of the insane admissions to New York hospitals and asylums were in 1911-12 twenty years of age or above, while in these age periods the foreign-born whites, according to the figures of the Thirteenth Census, represented, not 30, but nearly 41 per cent of the entire population of that state. Mr. Hall does not attempt to make allowances for this abnormal age distribution; his comparison is therefore to some extent misleading. Whether one's point of view is economic or social, the only significant question is how far the insanity rate of the foreign-born exceeds that of the natives of the same age groups. In order to answer this question we may employ any one of several methods of refining the crude rates used by Mr. Hall. A simple method is that represented by the following table. The percentage of both sexes of the native population of New York state in each age group is first ascertained; second, the foreign-born white population is distributed in corresponding proportions throughout the same age periods; and, lastly, by multiplying the calculated number in each age group by the percentage of first admissions for that group, we obtain the total number of such admissions which can fairly be attributed to the fact of foreign birth and not to irregularities of age and sex distribution.

The table demonstrates that, were the foreign-born normally distributed in age and sex groups, they could be held responsible for the

AGE GROUPS	NATIVE WHITE POPULATION, NEW YORK STATE,* 1910				FOREIGN-BORN WHITES N. Y. STATE, 1910, DIS- TRIBUTED ACCORDING TO PRECEDING AGE CLASSI- FICATION				FIRST ADMISSIONS† OF FOREIGN-BORN, NEW YORK STATE, 1911-12				CALCULATED NUMBER OF FIRST ADMISSIONS OF FOREIGN-BORN, NEW YORK STATE, 1911-12	
	Number		Percentage		Males	Females	Males	Females	Number		Males	Females	Males‡	Females§
	Males	Females	Males	Females					Males	Females				
Total.....	3,072,679	3,156,506	....	....	1,346,078	1,383,104	1,352	1,330	.....	.....	828	951		
Under 15.....	1,141,609	1,127,301	18.33	18.10	500,275	493,998	1	1	.....	.....	5	5		
15-19.....	319,317	329,938	5.13	5.30	149,012	144,651	57	74	.0104	.01051	93	109		
20-24.....	276,508	298,095	4.44	4.80	121,180	131,005	134	174	.071	.0757	92	134		
25-29.....	237,869	251,062	3.82	4.03	104,358	109,990	154	141	.7055	1.024	79	92		
30-34.....	211,434	223,195	3.39	3.58	92,522	97,708	153	151	.7625	.8448	80	105		
35-39.....	198,962	206,355	3.19	3.31	87,564	90,339	155	149	.8074	1.080	85	100		
40-44.....	165,318	179,045	2.65	2.73	72,326	74,599	165	129	.9795	1.117	85	83		
45-49.....	139,781	144,352	2.24	2.32	61,136	63,319	117	101	1.183	1.125	62	66		
50-54.....	123,211	124,595	1.98	2.00	54,940	54,585	104	77	1.018	1.043	63	54		
55-59.....	86,437	87,123	1.39	1.40	37,937	38,210	76	61	1.173	1.007	47	40		
60-64.....	62,571	67,812	1.00	1.09	27,293	29,749	78	72	1.265	1.066	41	39		
65-74.....	78,291	86,418	1.26	1.39	34,389	37,937	102	121	1.517	1.342	57	69		
75 and over	31,371	39,414	.50	.63	13,646	17,194	56	79	1.668	1.822	32	48		

* Thirtieth Census, *Population*, III, 214, Table VII.† New York State Hospital Commission, *Statistics of the Insane*, 1913, p. 72, Table XIII.

‡ These figures were obtained by dividing the figures in the preceding column by the New York foreign-born white population in each age group, as per the census of 1910.

§ The totals in this column include fractions which are not stated for the individual figures.

first admissions of no more than 828 males and 951 females, or a total of 1,779¹ instead of the actual number of 2,682, and would thus represent 37 per cent instead of 48 per cent of the insane admissions to hospitals and asylums. A fair comparison between native and foreign-born would therefore show that the 30 per cent² of the population represented by the foreign-born contributed 37 per cent of the insane patients coming from the age and sex groups in which insanity appears.

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WASHINGTON NOTES

PROGRESS OF BANKING REFORM

Further developments in the working-out of the program of complete banking reform have occurred during the past month, through the appointment of a special committee of the House Banking and Currency Committee under instructions to begin an investigation of the rural credit question with a view to reporting a bill on that subject at some time during the coming session of Congress—assuming that the general banking reform measure is by that time disposed of. In addition to this extension of the work of the committee, there is to be undertaken a further revision of the administrative features of the national bank act. That measure is to be revised in a number of particulars which were not considered sufficiently germane to the general subject of banking reform to warrant their being dealt with in the original banking reform measure now pending in the Senate. It has been decided to undertake hearings on both of these subjects at a comparatively early date, and to urge the measures forward as rapidly as conditions in the two Houses will permit. In regard to the banking reform measure itself, the event of the month has been the closing of hearings before the Senate Banking Committee, and the definite reporting of a bill on November 22 (H.R. 7837, Senate Report 133, Parts 1 and 2) as a result of the labors of that body. The hearings (Senate Banking and Currency Committee Hearings, September–November, 1913) have not added materially to the information already available, but have been chiefly

¹ This does not include a sum for foreign-born of unascertained age, of which the actual figures for 1911–12 gave 17 for the foreign-born and 15 for the native population.

² The census figures are for 1910 while the figures for insanity are for 1912. The percentage of foreign-born in New York is probably increasing 0.4 of 1 per cent a year. Accordingly the percentage should be 30.2+0.8, or 31.